

Farmers Have Town Clubhouse

By Jerle Davis

It is a place of comfort and convenience for country people who do their trading at Seymour, Indiana: Similar enterprise would benefit any community in the nation

NOW it's a city clubhouse for farmers! When they come to town to trade they may go to a well-appointed building to meet their friends, wash up, have lunch, write letters, enjoy telephone service and lounge around if they wish. And their wives may, besides having these privileges, leave the children in the care of a competent nurse while shopping or calling upon friends.

Quite a sensible, long-needed, modern convenience, don't you think? Seymour, a southern Indiana city of about 7,000 population, has a farmers' club with a membership of more than 1,000. It has been in operation since October, 1914, and is a thorough success. During 1916 the average daily number of visitors to the club was about 150.

The existence of the club is due—the plain truth must be told—to the public spirit and generosity of two business men of Seymour, and not to any special enterprise on the part of either the farmers or the citizens of the town. The Blish brothers own a large flour mill and grain elevators. They are grandchildren of Capt. Meedy W. Shields, founder of Seymour, himself a farmer of energy and vision, whose fortune, it seems, was the nest-egg of the Blish estate. For many years the Blish interests have dealt constantly and profitably with the farmers of Jackson county.

Why, reasoned the flour millers, wouldn't it be a fine thing to establish a club here in town for the farmers? They thought it would be—decidedly so—and out of their estate came funds which made the idea a fact in pleasing architecture and real convenience. Not only that; the maintenance of the club is assured by a paid-up income insurance policy. So the farmers should worry!

Much of Seymour's prosperity depends on the farmers living within a radius of 12 or 15 miles of the city, which is the metropolis of a county that is one of the most fertile in southern Indiana. For nearly three-quarters of a century the "rolling plowmen" and their wives have brought grain, fruit, vegetables, butter, eggs, and poultry to the town that Captain Shields started, and have taken home with them in the aggregate, a mighty pile of supplies during three score years. Such a mighty pile, you might say, that the legitimate profits on it have helped to make a vigorous and pretty little city.

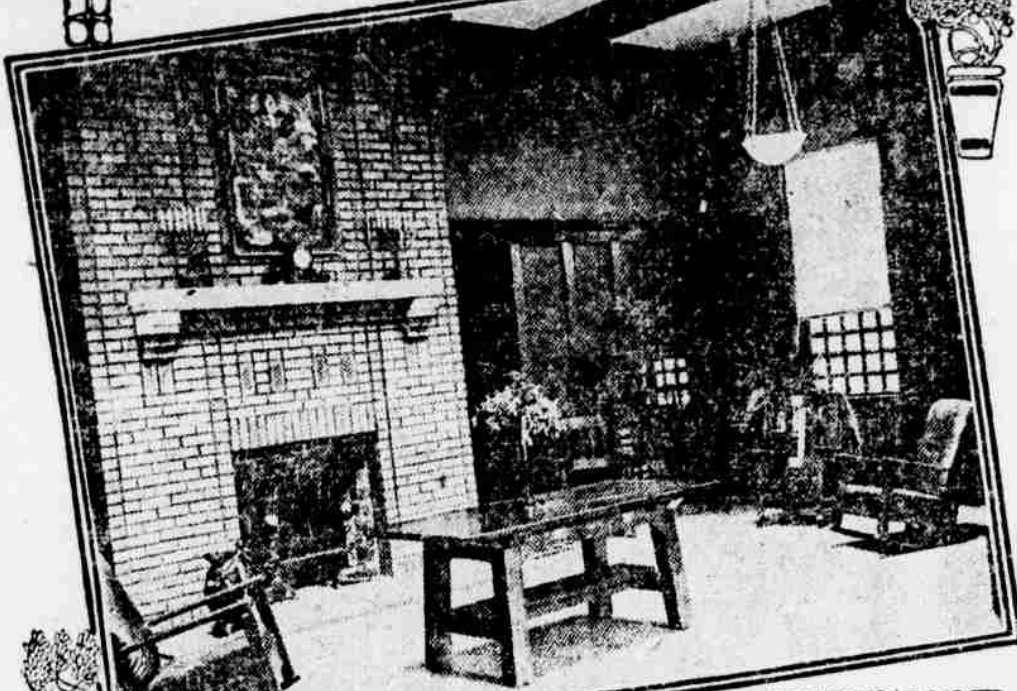
But until the time that Seymour's leading business men decided to recognize the value of farmer trade by putting up a clubhouse for the marketers, the country people certainly didn't enjoy the hospitality that good steady customers in most lines of commerce may expect nowadays. In fine weather they brought their lunch with them and ate it in their wagons parked in side streets, and in bad weather they bought crackers and cheese and bologna and munched it as they stood around the stoves or hot-air registers in the back of the stores where they sold butter and eggs. That wasn't so bad for the menfolk, but it was mighty inconvenient for the farm women, especially if they brought the children along to town, and often they did so.

Is it any wonder then that since the Farmers' Club of Jackson County has been receiving guests the merchants of surrounding towns within a reach of 12 and 15 miles in every direction are complaining that Seymour is getting the best of the country trade? Especially since the most prosperous farmers, and therefore the most profitable customers, own motorcars and can go fairly long distances over the well-paved roads?

The Farmers' club is good to look at. It is just as handsome in the face as the public library and the government building, and better looking than the city hall and the newest railway station at Seymour. You step into a paneled vestibule from the street when you enter the club. The vestibule gives into a large lounge room. Flanking the lounge room are two nurseries, toilet rooms, a lunchroom and kitchenette.

If you are a farmer who enjoys sliding down to the small of his back in a huge leather chair and toasting his shins before a great fireplace; who likes breathing space and dark oak paneling and a pile of magazines and books and some potted plants; who thinks it makes life more worth living if he can meet people of his own kind for a chat now and then, you would ride many miles to Seymour for half or three-quarters of an hour of loafing in lounge room.

And if you are a farmer's wife who knows the drudgery of dragging small children around for hours from store to store; who knows what it is to seek in vain for a place of decent privacy where fretful toddlers can be cared for, weary feet rested and an aching back relieved with a brief rest on a lounge; who appreciates a place where a letter may be written in quiet, where a telephone is at hand, where a crib waits to welcome a baby for a nap; who longs for an opportunity to talk with other country women, you would bring pressure to bear on the husband to go for these comforts of women—reclining chairs, lounges, cribs.



LOUNGE ROOM



LUNCH ROOM

Meals are not served at the club. Guests are expected to bring their own food, which they undoubtedly prefer to do in most instances. But the pantry contains shelves where lunch packages may be checked. In the kitchenette is a multiple electric heater, where food and drink may be warmed, and hot and cold water faucets. In the lunchroom are dinner tables and chairs—with highchairs of course for the little ones. And the comfort-station facilities offered at the club? Well, surely nobody is in a position really to appreciate this convenience more than the farm people. There is a matron in constant attendance.

The club has been incorporated under the laws of the state and the organization is self-perpetuating. The trustees charged with the management of the club are the presidents of the three leading banks of Seymour. Whoever happens to be president of either of these banks becomes one of the trustees. The treasurer of the club is chosen from among the three cashiers of these same banks, preference being given to the cashier of the bank having the largest surplus fund and undivided profits at the last preceding report for the year.

There are no fees or costs attached to club membership. Any legal voter in the county who is engaged in farming or who derives his support wholly or partly from the farm is eligible to membership. Anyone thus qualified may apply for membership privileges at either of the trustee banks. All one need do is take enough interest to ask for privileges; then he and his family may participate in the club.

Because it was an untimed experiment—something that hadn't been done before, and all that—the business men of Seymour probably wouldn't have put up the money for establishing the club and maintaining it perpetually if the matter had been proposed to them. Now, if they were asked to reimburse the donors fully and make provisions for maintenance, they'd jointly jump at the proposition—simply as a piece of first-class civic investment; what you might call a trade magnet. They know that it is drawing new farmer trade steadily, and reaching out farther and farther toward rival markets as roads are improved and the price of those handy little buzz-wagons comes down.

The secretary of the Seymour Commercial club will tell you—for promoters have to put a squirt of the poetic and a liberal pinch of sentiment into business talk—that the Farmers' club is "strikingly progressive because it is a concrete expression of the ideal relationship which should exist between every town and the farming community adjacent."

And furthermore, he'll tell you "it was certainly a happy conception, a fitting recognition of the appreciation which the business men of Seymour have for their farmer friends, that led the Blish brothers to do this thing for the farmers of Jackson county and at that same time build a memorial in honor of the founder of the city, Captain Shields, who was a farmer and whose dealings with the

farmers around Seymour created the basis of his fortune."

One of the Indiana colleges, which has an important agriculture department, has shown much interest in the Seymour enterprise. This school sends out special trains and agents and emissaries and whatnot all over Indiana in line with its policy of making Hoosierdom a paradise of scientific farming, and these agents don't often overlook the opportunity of telling about Seymour's Farmers' club and what it is doing to make the city and its rural customers real business associates.

The word is going farther, too, than the farthest reaches of Indiana. Grange organizations, commercial clubs and agricultural colleges here and there all over the country are making inquiries of Seymour about the club. So besides making it easy for the rural neighbor to enjoy himself while trading there, Seymour is gathering to itself a stack of advertising valuable beyond computation.

What has been done in Seymour can be done in any other agricultural community in the United States. It isn't necessary that the club should be a memorial to anybody; nor that it should be a monument to the generosity and public spirit of one or two men; nor that it should be housed in a specimen of classic architecture. Four or six rooms would serve the purpose nicely, if converted properly to club uses. These rooms might be found in a detached residence or on the second or third floor of a business block. The expenses might be prorated among the business men, and the farmers themselves might pay a modest initiation fee and nominal dues. Where there's a will there's a way—as the fellow said. Anyhow, it sounds pretty peppy and up-to-date, doesn't it, to overhaul one farmer say to his neighbor on a Saturday morning in town: "Well, Ed, let's run over to the club and have a talk."

REMARKABLE TREE SURGICAL OPERATION.

Edward Fontaine, a tree surgeon of Charlottesville, Va., has, according to Inland Farmer, completed the greatest tree surgical operation ever attempted anywhere, and this has been done for Mr. John Armstrong Chabon of Merrie Mills. The tree is red oak and is possibly three hundred years old. It is 24 feet in circumference, two feet above the ground, with a diameter of eight feet, four inches in its widest part. The cement filling was carried up the tree 23 feet from the surface and a cement leg or root was imbedded five feet into the ground to support the tree in heavy winds. The material used was six wagonloads of sand, 12 loads of hold stone, 28 bags of cement, 14 iron straps to re-enforce the concrete, 44 eyebolts and a roll of galvanized wire. So far the operation has been successful.

NOT LIKELY TO BE POPULAR.

A citizen of Columbus, O., has appeared on the streets lately with an outfit for seeing the time without removing his watch from his pocket. Great surprise was at first created by what was considered extreme singularity of conduct, and it took a good deal of explaining on his part to restore to himself public confidence. It seems, however, that the device is perfectly practicable, as it has been accepted by the patent office. Notwithstanding, most people will cling to the idea that a man who is too lazy to take out his watch to see the time deserves on general principles to be shot and it is very unlikely that the new invention will win its way into popular favor.—Exchange.

SOLDIERS MAY TRIM HATS.

Hat trimming is not generally required of young soldiers who go to war, yet many wounded soldiers at the Canadian sports day held recently at Grasmere Meadow, near Orpington, Kent, proved themselves so talented in the handicraft that after the victory was won, instead of going back to the land, some of them may set up millinery establishments in Canadian towns, equal to any branch of the famous Maison Lewis of New York, London and Paris.—Toronto Globe.

WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS

Remnant of Only Confederate Balloon Discovered

WASHINGTON.—The aviation branch of the war department has just received an interesting present in the shape of a piece of the only balloon owned by the Confederate army, which was made out of silk dresses contributed by the women of Richmond during the siege of that city.

This relic was found among the effects of the late Prof. T. S. C. Lowe, who was aeronaut of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil war. It was given to the war department by his son, Leon P. Lowe of San Francisco.

Professor Lowe was the first aeronaut to take up Count Zeppelin and the first to take up a United States officer, General Heintzmann. They looked into Yorktown. General McClellan, who was in command of the Army of the Potomac, had seen balloons used in the Mexican war, and so made use of them in his campaign, selecting Professor Lowe to command that branch.

The captured Confederate balloon was under the command of Gen. E. P. Alexander with the Army of Northern Virginia. It made but one ascension and that not very successful. This balloon was towed down the James river by a tug.

After the balloon was captured, it was turned over to Professor Lowe for whatever use his department might make of it. Being of impetuous materials and construction, it was cut up and pieces given as souvenirs to prominent persons of that day.

Woman Scientist Puts Potato Through Its Paces

FOR a number of years past the United States department of agriculture has been studying the potato scientifically selecting and breeding new varieties that will bring it up to the highest standard of efficiency in its duty to mankind. In its later efforts toward the improvement of the useful tuber, it has called in the assistance of a woman that she may bring her woman's knowledge of home economics to bear upon the study of the vegetable.

It is the province of Miss Margaret Connor, scientific assistant in pomology, the youngest woman scientist in the government employ, to put the potatoes through their paces from the standpoint of the home economist.

Potato growing on a large scale in the United States has been centralized in half a dozen localities, corresponding roughly to the various geographical divisions of the country. This specialization has created a demand for varieties adapted to conditions in particular localities, or for varieties possessing certain desirable qualities, such as heat and drought resistance, resistance to parasite fungi, early or late maturity, high-starch content, etc.

As a result of the years of selection and breeding literally thousands of seedling potatoes have been secured. These are grown in all parts of the United States where the office of horticulture and pomology has experimental grounds—Maine, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado and Idaho—and complete records are kept of every phase of their development.

"No matter how disease or drought resistant a potato vine may be, the seedling will prove of little practical importance if the potatoes have a disagreeable flavor or odor, if their flesh turns black after cooking, or if they do not prove suited to the demands of the housewife," said Miss Connor in talking of her work. "The tubers from each seedling which is thought worthy of saving are subjected to a cooking test, and if this is unfavorable the seedling must possess some very desirable culture characteristics to save it from the discard."

"There are three general tests which we apply to each potato—boiling, baking and potato chips. The first two methods of cooking are the foundation of practically all the ways in which potatoes are served in the household."

Awkward Moments When the President Is Present

PRESIDENT WILSON and several of his predecessors have been very generous about attending many of the balls, receptions and other semi-public functions to which the chief executive is invited, and certainly the president's presence adds immeasurably to the interest of the function.

Usually his arrival with the ladies of his party is marked by some degree of pomp and ceremony, and, what is more important, by some certainty on the part of his hosts, as to the proper form of procedure.

But after the greetings are over there are many awkward moments for all concerned, and usually the president's retreat is almost in the nature of a rout. Take, for instance, the Southern society's ball at the Pan-American building. The first little informal reception, when the president met the guests of honor, the diplomats of Pan-America, was very pleasant, the supper for the distinguished guests a really charming affair.

But between whiles, when the notables were seated in even rows in a sort of roped-off box and the other guests crowded around for a glimpse of them, one could think of nothing but Mrs. Jarley's wax works.

At the Navy Relief ball the president and his party were half way across the room on their way out, when it was suddenly decided that some formal notice should be taken of their departure and the band struck up "The Star-Spangled Banner."

There they had to stand at attention in the middle of the room until it was all over.

The same sort of thing will continue to happen until there is some definite understanding of the etiquette which should attend the arrival of the president, his departure, and the time which he spends at a social function.

Permanent Exposition of States in the Capital

THE long-projected idea of the establishment in Washington of a permanent exposition of the states is revived and advocated on a comprehensive scale by the Federation of Citizens' Associations in conjunction with its plans for holding a government educational exhibit in Washington during the week of February 26 to March 4.

This announcement was made by Charles S. Shreve, president of the federation, who declared that exhibit week, which is to be arranged primarily for the entertainment and instruction of pre-inaugural visitors, will be utilized as the first step toward the carrying out of the larger proposition. The plan, Mr. Shreve said, is to invite the governors of the states and territories or their personal representatives to attend a mass meeting to be held in Washington, probably on the evening of March 3, for the purpose of considering the desirability of establishing a permanent exposition here.

Whether the original suggestion for separate buildings for the states will be advocated or in lieu of that, the proposal for one building in which each state will be represented by a room or suite of rooms where its exhibits may be installed, the conference itself will determine.

Many Washington organizations from time to time have advocated the permanent exposition idea, and members of the federation believe that the time is now at hand for launching the undertaking on a big scale.

SCRAPS

A mouse can bore a passage through an inch board in three hours. Printing was practiced generally in China about the sixth century.

The empress of Russia is said to be the finest royal singer in the world. One machine has a capacity of cutting a thousand celluloid combs a day.

A new heading device for harvesting wheat is designed so it can be attached directly to the front of a tractor.

WHAT IS LAX-FOS

LAX-FOS is an improved Cascara (a tonic-laxative) Pleasant to take

In LAX-FOS the Cascara is improved by the addition of certain harmless chemicals which increase the efficiency of the Cascara, making it better than ordinary Cascara. LAX-FOS is pleasant to take and does not gripe nor disturb stomach. Adapted to children as well as adults. Just try one bottle for constipation. 50c.

MOTHER GRAY'S SWEET POWDERS FOR CHILDREN
Believe Everlasting Constipation Cures and corrects disorders of the stomach and bowels. Used by Mothers for their children. All Druggists, etc. Sample mailed FREE. Address: Mrs. Gray, 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.

ANTI-FROST
A real modern preserver, keeps fruit clear and transparent, prevents frost, snow, rain or fog, constant for store windows, etc. Gases, etc. Full size can sent free. Address: Wm. T. W. Co., St. Louis, Mo.

PATENTS
Watson E. Coleman, Washington, D. C. Book free. Highest references. Most reliable.

SHOES AT RETAIL
Style to order. Free. Brown shoes, \$12.50. Send to: St. Louis, Mo.

Unbreakable Windows.

Repeated coats of raw or boiled linseed oil applied to a newly washed window glass will give a good substitute for window glass. The oil may be used for many purposes, and is especially good where glass might easily be broken. The fabric may be dipped in the oil instead of applying it with a brush.

FALLING HAIR MEANS DANDRUFF IS ACTIVE

Save Your Hair! Get a 25 Cent Bottle of Danderine Right Now—Also Stops Itching Scalp.

Thin, brittle, colorless and straggly hair is sure evidence of a neglected scalp; of dandruff—that awful scurf.

There is nothing so destructive to the hair as dandruff. It robs the hair of its luster, its strength and its very life. Eventually producing a feverishness (and itching) of the scalp, which if not remedied causes the hair roots to shrink, loosen and die—then the hair falls out fast. A little Danderine tonight—every night—will surely save your hair.

Get a 25 cent bottle of Knowlton's Danderine from any store, and after the first application your hair will take on that life, luster and luxuriance which is so beautiful. It will become wavy and fluffy and have the appearance of abundance in its incomparable gloss and softness, but what will please you most will be after just a few weeks' use, when you will actually see a lot of fine, downy hair—new hair—growing all over the scalp. Adv.

Songs Inspire Shower of Crockery.

Street singing is an especially Napoleon invitation, and when for the first time one hears beneath his windows the more often than not effery versions of the snappy, flitting, incessantly infectious Napoleon songs he is enchanted and throws pommes freely. After a week or so of it as a steady diet, day and night, he begins much more to heavy crockery.—National Geographic Magazine.

Full of Trouble.

"You're looking awfully gloomy, old top. What's the trouble?"

"Trouble enough old top. Me vial's sick, danderine, and I don't know whether I've got on the proper tie and socks that go with the suit I'm wearing."—Browning's Magazine.

Power of Music.

"Why do people prefer music to conversation?"

"Seems to be some sort of instinct about it. There isn't anybody who wouldn't rather listen to a canary bird than to a parrot."

An After Thought.

"I told Mr. Thickwitz that his baby looked like him."

"Of course, he was pleased?"

"Immediately. He didn't hear me add: 'Poor little devil, under my breath.'"

It may take nine tailors to make a man, but one Christmas is enough to break him.

Some spiders in Java make webs so strong that it requires a knife to sever them.

Before Drinking Coffee, You Should Consider Whether Or Not It Is Harmful

"There's a Reason" for

Postum

MUCH IN LITTLE

Glasgow provides its policemen with warm food and tea when on duty at night by the use of electrically heated plates in signal boxes.

A new cafe and observation car has large windows at the tables so that diners may get a broad view of the passing landscape while dining.

For stringing beads quickly an ingenious German has patented a crank-operated machine which feeds them on the point of a threaded needle.

Fire dooms 50 structures every hour; 720 structures every day.

The Chilean congress has under consideration a measure looking to the electrification of the railway connecting Valparaiso and Santiago.

Nitrate exports from Chile are rapidly increasing. Latest figures for 1916 show monthly exports about double those of same months, 1915.

The sport of a new container for a can of condensed milk punctures the can and allows the milk to be poured as from a teapot.

Private William O'Connor, on the border with the Washington (D. C.) militia, at mess ate 60 onions by actual count. He collected the ration allowance of the men who did not like onions.

In Scotland 23.5 per cent of illuminating gas is made in municipal works; 51.4 per cent in Ireland and 30.8 per cent in England.

One English invention for convalescents is a stout cane, from one end of which can be unfolded a projection to rest a user's foot.

St. Louis has one factory which will this year consume 100,000,000 feet of lumber.

The temperature of southern Australia varies not more than 20 degrees during the year.

A rough estimate of the power that can be developed from the rivers of Alabama places the total at 1,375,000 horse power.

Whistler's picture, "White Girl," described by himself as one of his most important works, brought \$10,000 in London at auction.